

Oklahoma improved from 46th to 43rd in the 2017 America's Health Rankings. Only two states, Florida and Utah, had a better overall improvement in the rankings. North Dakota had the largest drop – seven spots.

The state is facing many of the same challenges that are affecting the entire nation - diabetes, drug overdose deaths, cardiovascular deaths and an increase in premature death.

Strengths we can point to:

- Low Prevalence of Excessive Drinking – Oklahoma has the second lowest percentage of excessive drinking (12.8%) in the nation.
- High Number of Mental Health Providers – Oklahoma ranks fifth in the number of mental health providers, with 382 providers per 100,000 people, well above the national average of 218 per 100,000.
- Pertussis – Oklahoma has one of the ten lowest rates of Pertussis in the nation, ranking 9th with just 2.3 cases per 100,000 as opposed to the national rate of 6.5.

Improvement being made:

- Decrease in smoking rates – Oklahoma's smoking rate reached an all-time low, decreased by 2.6 percent (22.2% to 19.6%), improving to 36th nationally - an improvement of nine spots. Oklahoma's smoking rate has declined 25 % in the past five years. That is the largest improvement for any state since 2012 but is still 2.5% higher than the national average of 17.1%
- Low Birthweight – At 7.9%, Oklahoma ranks better than the national average (8%) and has improved 11 spots to 22nd in the past five years, one of the best advances in the nation.
- Physical Activity – Although still ranked in the bottom 10 states (41), Oklahoma improved by seven spots in the rankings. The state rate is five percent less than the national average, with 28.5% of the population not engaging in physical activity.

Areas of concern:

- Lack of Health Insurance – While Oklahoma's uninsured rate has decreased the past three years to 13.9%, the national ranking dropped another two spots to 48th and the rate lags far behind the national rate of nine percent.
- Diabetes – Following a national trend that saw an all-time high nationally (10.5%), Oklahoma is ranked 41st with a rate of 12%.
- Immunizations for Children – The rate of immunization among children 19 to 35 months dropped significantly (75.4% to 67%) moving the state ranking to 42nd while overall adolescent immunization rates improved by six places (40th to 34th).